

disease to avoid delay and to seek treatment before it is too late for more than palliative measures. Dr. Fraser reports that from statements made to him by local men the publication of circulars and newspaper articles by the Health Department has been instrumental in inducing a number of persons suffering from early operable cancer to secure treatment, the result of which it is hoped will be permanent.

When the educational measures were put in force two years ago, the cancer death rate of the city had for a long period been increasing. Twenty years ago the average death rate from cancer in Portsmouth was 6.79 per 10,000 of the population, but in 1913 it had risen to 9.16 per 10,000. In that year the total number of deaths was only 34 less than were caused by tuberculosis. While admitting that the increase in the recorded cancer death rate might have been caused in part by improved methods of diagnosis, the Health Committee of the Portsmouth Town Council nevertheless believed that the present number of deaths was unnecessarily large, and they felt it incumbent to adopt whatever measures might lessen the ravages of the disease. The initiative came from Dr. Charles P. Childe, senior surgeon of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital and a member of the Health Committee of the Town Council. As early as 1906 Dr. Childe in his book, "The Control of the Scourge," had given to the public the benefit of his extended experience with cancer. At his suggestion the Portsmouth authorities in 1913 began a campaign of public education under the official auspices of the Health Department. The methods adopted included the monthly publication in the local newspapers of articles regarding cancer and the printing and distribution of a Health Department circular on the subject. Arrangements were made for periodical lectures to midwives, nurses, and to those engaged in social work in Portsmouth. The Health Department further made provision for free microscopical examinations and reports on suspected cancerous growths in order to assist physicians in immediate diagnosis in the case of patients who were unable to pay for such laboratory service. The experience of the Portsmouth authorities had been that by far the majority of patients who presented themselves at hospitals suffering from cancer exhibited the disease in a stage too advanced to be cured. It was held that the reason for this delay in seeking advice was not as a rule because patients feared operation, but because they were ignorant that they were suffering from anything serious until they began to suffer pain. The fact that cancer at its onset is almost always painless should be widely realized in order that the public may learn the importance of other symptoms which will enable them to recognize the disease in the early stages when it can nearly always be successfully removed by competent surgery.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING-COUGH GREAT FOES OF CHILDREN.

With the opening of the public schools come reports to the California State Board of Health of cases of whooping-cough, measles, scarlet fever and diphtheria. Most people regard scarlet fever and diphtheria with a certain degree of alarm, but measles and whooping-cough are generally regarded as necessities; or at least, as being of minor importance.

Most fatal cases of these diseases occur in children under five years of age, and parents who deliberately expose their children to cases of measles and whooping-cough, in order that they may "catch them and have them over with," are taking a very great risk. During the first five years of a child's life special care should be taken

to protect him from such exposures. By deferring these diseases to later childhood, the death rate may be greatly lowered.

The chief difficulty in the control of these diseases lies in the fact that they are more "catching" in the early stages, than later. For this reason, any cough or cold in a child just entering school should be regarded with more or less suspicion, the case should be closely watched, and the child isolated, so that if it proves to be measles or whooping-cough, contact with other children may be prevented.

During 1914, there were 8,852 cases of measles reported to the California State Board of Health, with 150 deaths; and during the same year, 2,595 cases of whooping-cough were reported, with 305 deaths. The tragedy does not lie in deaths alone, however, for the complications that often follow are what give these diseases their deadly character. Some health authorities say that tuberculosis follows measles and whooping-cough more often than any other of the communicable diseases. However this may be, the wise parent exercises every precaution to protect the child from these diseases, until as late a period in childhood as may be possible.

The control of these diseases is largely in the hands of parents. Every case should be isolated as soon as recognized and report made to the local health officer.

To admit knowingly, a child suffering from either of these diseases, to the schools or picture shows or to any public gathering, is a direct offense against all public health regulations.

RURAL CREDITS.

At the Rural Credits Conference held on the Panama-Pacific International Exposition grounds September 21, it was decided to form a state organization to work for the adoption of Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 17, authorizing legislation in regard to rural credits and to co-operate with the State Commission recently appointed and with other agencies, to secure for California an adequate system of rural credits adapted to our conditions.

Frank H. Gould of San Francisco was named as chairman of the temporary organization, and A. L. Cowell, secretary of the San Joaquin Valley Water Problem Association, was selected as secretary. Headquarters have been established at Room 264 Mills Building, and an active campaign in behalf of the proposed constitutional amendment is being prosecuted pending completion of the permanent organization. Letters from persons interested in rural credits with suggestions as to methods of procedure are solicited by the committee.

The amendment will be voted on at the special state election to be held October 26.

The movement for a system of rural credits in California is in line with the general sentiment of the nation that measures should be taken to give to the farmers as favorable opportunities for financing their operations as are now open to the business men of the cities. The high rate of interest charged farmers retards rural development, besides adding an unnecessary burden to the already over-capitalized agriculture of the country, a burden which is passed along to all consumers of food products in the shape of higher prices. Therefore any plan that would remove some of the restrictions which now hamper the farmers of California should be of benefit to all the people of the state.

The defects of the present credit system emphasize further the fact that the need is not merely to provide cheaper money for agricultural

development, but to make it possible for the farmer to obtain loans in many cases where credit is not now available even on good security at any price.

To make a thorough investigation of the subject, the governor has appointed a commission of five members, consisting of Dr. Elwood Mead, professor of Rural Institutions, University of California, and for many years in active charge of rural credits and land settlement operations in Australia; Dr. David P. Barrows, dean of the Faculties of the University of California; Col. Harris Weinstock, member of the Industrial Accident Commission of California, and one of the representatives of this state on the Commission on Rural Credits and Agricultural Finance that made a study tour of Europe in 1913; State Senator William E. Brown of Los Angeles, and Mortimer Fleishhacker, a prominent financier of San Francisco. This commission will prepare recommendations to be submitted to the next legislature.

The constitution as it at present exists makes it impossible for the legislature to enact a law providing for an effective rural credits system. The purpose of Constitutional Amendment No. 17 is to untie the hands of the legislators so as to enable them to enact a law that will be constitutional as well as effective. The amendment as presented is sufficient to permit the enactment of a practical and efficient rural credits law.

FRANK H. GOULD, Chairman.

A. L. COWELL, Secretary.

Room 264 Mills Building, San Francisco, Cal.

EDUCATION AT THE EXPOSITION.

The Palace of Education at the Exposition continues to be the center of educational conferences. The Public Health exhibits, particularly those of the U. S. Public Health Service and the Health Department of Pennsylvania, have drawn crowds of interested observers.

The attendance in the section of the California Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis last month was over 15,000.

The exhibit has carried home a message to two large groups of people:

1. It has made the Californians conscious of their own high death-rate from the "white plague," because one-fourth of all the deaths in this State are from tuberculosis. Thirty per cent. of these deaths are among native born, and it has made the Californians realize their own needs for adequate care for people in the first stages of the disease. It has also made the visitors conscious of the great burden imposed upon California by the non-resident indigent patient. Hundreds of visitors have commented on it, and steps are already well on foot for the introduction of federal legislation.

The new law in this State—to raise the standard of the tuberculosis wards in county hospitals—is receiving serious consideration in a number of counties.

The open-air school movement continues to grow. Five years ago only \$10,000 was spent in open-air schools. Last year \$300,000 was the total in the United States. These schools are more than open-window rooms; they are not only intended for the child suffering from tuberculosis, but for the child whose attendance is irregular through sickness, and who is not strong enough to be in a regular class-room. Rest and special food is given these children.

Last year a boy who had enjoyed the opportunity of attending an open-air school in Chicago, came in one morning with another little boy, who wished to be a candidate for admittance into

the school. "How sick does a feller have to be before he could get in this here school?" he asked the school doctor. This, in itself, ought to make us sit up and take notice of the large group of children who have not the physical strength to keep up in a regular school room, and who need the fresh air, sunshine and rest that the open-air school provides.

The tuberculosis death-rate is highest among laborers; nearly 75 per cent. of the deaths occur in families where the income is less than \$1000 a year. This proves the necessity for adequate county hospital facilities, so that care and treatment may be given them.

Los Angeles is now running eight clinics a week, with 12 nurses soon to be put in the field. San Francisco, through its Tuberculosis Association, has asked for \$40,000 for a tuberculosis division in the health department. Stockton has a splendid new dispensary, as has San Diego. Each has a nurse to look after patients. Pasadena will soon have a new dispensary. Riverside, through its committee on tuberculosis, is to have an open-air school for children who are not well enough to be in a regular class-room. In another school some intensive work in general public work will be given the children and their parents.

Meanwhile, in New York the movement for a clean bill of health has extended into a field that has long been neglected. The City Board of Health has notified the 4500 hotels and restaurants, with their 90,000 handlers of food, that all cooks and waiters must be supplied with certificates, guaranteeing their freedom from tuberculosis, typhoid fever, and other communicable diseases.

Now, stop and think. If there is any person who, by virtue of his calling ought to be free from contagious or infectious diseases, it is the person who handles food for others' consumption. The day is not far distant when health, a clear eye, good skin, good teeth and personal cleanliness will be necessary assets in any occupation. Then we may watch the declining death-rate in tuberculosis.

AUDITORS' REPORTS FOR 1914.

McLAREN, GOODE & CO.

Certified Public Accountants.

San Francisco, Cal., January 26, 1915.

Medical Society of the State of California,
San Francisco, Cal.

Gentlemen:

We have audited the accounts of the Medical Society of the State of California for the year 1914, and we annex hereto Analysis of Cash Receipts and Cash Disbursements for the year, showing totals by months.

The balance with the Union Trust Company of San Francisco at December 31, 1914, amounting to \$823.26, has been verified. The volume of bank transactions for the year was as follows:

January 1, 1914, balance.....	\$ 290.10
Deposited during 1914, as per statement of cash receipts.....	23,844.74

\$24,134.84

Less checks drawn during 1914, as per statement of cash disbursements.....	23,311.58
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December 31, 1914, balance in bank.....	\$ 823.26
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The statement of the Union Trust Company of San Francisco shows a balance, as at December 31, 1914, according to their books of\$863.26

From this must be deducted check 1465, unpaid at December 31, 1914. 40.00

\$823.26 as above